

those who have faithfully served their country, and awarding distinctions, by retaining in appropriate commands those who have been particularly conspicuous for gallantry and good conduct. While the obligation of the country to maintain and honor those who devoted themselves to its arduous service, this obligation should not be permitted to interfere with the efficiency of the service itself.

I am gratified in being able to state, that the estimates of expenditure for the navy in the ensuing year are less, by more than one million of dollars, than those of the present year. The appropriation which becomes necessary for the construction of a dock on the coast of the Pacific, propositions for which are now being considered, and on which a special report may be expected early in your present session.

There is an evident justice in the suggestion of the same report, that appropriations for the naval service proper, should be separated from those for permanent and fixed objects, such as buildings, docks and navy yards and the fixtures attached; and from the extraordinary objects under the care of the Department, which, however important, are not essentially naval.

A revision of the code for the government of the navy seems to require the immediate consideration of Congress. Its system of crimes and punishments had undergone no change for half a century, until the last session, though its defects have been often and ably pointed out, and abolition of a particular species of corporal punishment which then took place without providing any substitute, has left the service in a state of defectiveness, which calls for prompt correction. I therefore recommend that the whole subject be revised without delay, and such system established for the enforcement of discipline as shall be at once humane and effectual.

The accompanying report of the Post Master General, presents a satisfactory view of the operations and condition of that Department.

At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of the inland mail routes in the United States (not embracing the service in Oregon and California) was one hundred and seventy-eight thousand six hundred and seventy-two miles; the annual transportation thereon forty-six million five hundred and forty-one thousand four hundred and twenty-three miles; and the annual cost of such transportation two millions seven hundred and twenty-four thousand four hundred and twenty-five dollars.

The increase of the annual transportation over that of the preceding year, was three millions nine hundred and ninety-seven thousand three hundred and fifty-four miles, and the increase in cost was three hundred and forty-two thousand four hundred and forty dollars.

The number of post offices in the United States, on the first day of July last, was eighteen thousand four hundred and seventeen—being an increase of sixteen hundred and seventy during the preceding year.

The gross revenue of the Department for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1850, amounted to five millions five hundred and fifty-two thousand nine hundred and seventy-one dollars and forty-eight cents, including the annual appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars for the franking matter of the departments, and excluding the foreign postages collected for any payable to the British Government.

The expenditures for the same period were five millions two hundred and fifty-three dollars and forty-three cents—leaving a balance of revenue over expenditures of three hundred and forty thousand and eighteen dollars and five cents.

I am happy to find that the fiscal condition of the Department is such as to justify the Postmaster General in recommending the reduction of our inland letter postage to three cents the single letter when prepaid, and five cents when not prepaid. He also recommends that the prepaid rate be reduced to two cents, whenever the revenues of the Department after the reduction, shall exceed its expenditures by more than five per cent, for two consecutive years; that the postage upon California and other sent by our Ocean steamers be much reduced; and that the rates of postage, and newspaper, pamphlets, periodicals, and other printed matter shall be modified, and some reduction thereon made.

It cannot be doubted that the proposed reduction will, for the present, diminish the revenues of the Department. It is believed that the deficiency, after the surplus already accumulated shall be exhausted, may be almost wholly met, either by abolishing the existing privileges of sending free matter through the mails, or by paying out of the Treasury to the Post Office Department a sum equivalent to the postage of which it is deprived by such privileges. The last is supposed to be the preferable mode, and newspaper, entirely, so nearly so the deficiency as to make any further appropriation that may be found necessary so inconsiderable as to form no obstacle to the proposed reductions.

I entertain no doubt of the authority of Congress to make appropriations for leading objects in that class of public works comprising what are usually called works of internal improvement. This authority I suppose to be derived chiefly from the power of regulating commerce with foreign nations, and among the States, and the power of laying and collecting impost, and excise duties, to be carried on, and impost collected, there must be ports and harbors, as well as wharves and custom houses. If ships, laden with valuable cargoes, approach the shore, or sail along the coast, light-houses are necessary at suitable points, for the protection of life and property. Other facilities and securities for commerce and navigation are hardly less important; and these classes of the Constitution, therefore, to which I have referred, have received from the origin of the Government a liberal and beneficial construction. Not only have light-houses, buoys, and beacons been established, and floating lights maintained, but harbors have been cleaned and improved, piers constructed, and even break-waters for the safety of shipping, and sea walls to protect harbors from being filled up, and rendered useless, by the action of the ocean, have been erected at very great expense.

And this construction of the Constitution appears the more reasonable from the consideration that if these works, of such evident importance and utility are not to be accomplished at all, by the adoption of the Constitution the several States voluntarily parted with the power of collecting duties of impost in their own ports; and it is not to be expected that they should raise money, by internal taxation, direct or indirect, for the benefit of that commerce, the revenues derived from which, do not, either in whole or in part, go into their own treasuries. Nor do I perceive any difference between the powers of Congress to make appropriations for object of this kind on the ocean, and the power to make appropriations for similar objects on lakes and rivers, wherever they are large enough to bear on their waters an extensive traffic.

The magnificent Mississippi and its tributaries, and the vast lakes of the north and north-

west appear to me to fall within the exercise of the power, as justly and as clearly as the Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. It is a mistake to regard expenditures judiciously made for these objects as expenditures for local purposes.—The position, or site of the work, is necessarily local; but its utility is general. A ship canal around the falls of St. Mary of less than a mile in length though local in its construction, would yet be national in its purpose and its benefits, as it would remove the only obstruction to navigation of more than a thousand miles, affecting several of our great commercial relations with Canada. So, too, the breakwater at the mouth of the Delaware is erected, not for the exclusive benefit of the States bordering on the bay and river of that name, but for that of the whole coastwise navigation of the United States, and, to a considerable extent also, of foreign commerce.

If a ship be lost on the bar at the entrance of a southern port for want of sufficient depth of water, it is very likely to be a northern ship; and if a steamboat be sunk in any part of the Mississippi, on account of its channel not having been properly cleared of obstructions, it may be a boat belonging to either of eight or ten States. I may add, as another what remarkable, that among all the thirty-one States, there is none that is not, to a greater or less extent, bounded on the ocean, or the Gulf of Mexico, or one of the great lakes, or the Gulf of Mexico, or one of the great lakes, or some navigable river.

In fulfilling our constitutional duties, fellow-citizens on this subject, as in carrying into effect all other powers conferred by the Constitution, we should consider ourselves as liberating and acting for one and the same country, and bear constantly in mind that our regard is not to the whole, but to a particular part only, but to the whole.

I therefore recommend that appropriations be made for completing such works as have been already begun, and for commencing such others as may seem to the wisdom of Congress to be of public and general importance.

The difficulties and delays, incident to the settlement of private claims by Congress amount in many cases to a denial of justice.—There is reason to apprehend that many unfortunate creditors of the Government have thereby been unavoidably ruined. Congress has such business of a public character, that it is impossible it should give much attention to mere private claims, and their accumulation is now so great that many claimants must despair of ever being able to obtain a hearing. It may well be doubted whether Congress, from the nature of its organization, is properly constituted to decide upon such cases. It is impossible that each member should examine the merits of every claim on which he is compelled to vote; and it is preposterous to ask a judge to decide a case which he has never heard.

Such decisions may, and frequently must, do justice either to the claimant or the Government, and I perceive no better remedy for this growing evil than the establishment of some tribunal to adjudicate upon such claims.

I beg leave, therefore, most respectfully, to recommend that provision be made by law for the appointment of a commission to settle all private claims against the United States; and, as an *ex parte* hearing must in all contested cases be very unsatisfactory, I also recommend the appointment of a Solicitor, whose duty it shall be to represent the Government before such commission, and protect it against all illegal, fraudulent, or unjust claims, which may be presented for their adjudication.

This District, which has neither voice nor vote in your deliberation, looks to you for protection and aid, and I commend all confidence that you will meet them not only with justice, but with liberality.

It is a city, laid out by Washington and consecrated by his name, is located the Capitol of our nation, the emblem of our Union and the symbol of our greatness.—Here also are situated all the public buildings necessary for the use of the Government, and all these are exempt from taxation. It should be the pride of Americans to render this place attractive to the people of the whole Republic, and convenient and safe for the transaction of the public business, and the preservation of the public records. The Government should, therefore, bear a liberal and prompt consideration of all necessary and proper improvement. And, as nothing could contribute more to the health, comfort, and safety of the city, and the security of the public building and records, than an abundant supply of pure water, I respectfully recommend that you make such provisions for obtaining the same as in your wisdom you may deem proper.

The act passed at your last session, making certain propositions to Texas for the settling disputed boundary between that State and the Territory of Mexico, was, immediately on its passage, transmitted by express to the Governor of Texas, to be laid by him before the General Assembly, and its agreement thereto. Its receipt was duly acknowledged by the action of the General Assembly; and, as by the terms of the propositions submitted, they were to have been acted upon, on or before the first day of the present month.

It was hardly to have been expected that the series of measures passed at your last session, with the view of healing the sectional differences which had sprung from the slavery and territorial questions, should at once have realized their beneficial purposes. All mutual concessions in the nature of a compromise must necessarily be unwelcome to men of extreme opinions. And though without such concession, our constitutions could not have been formed, and cannot be firmly sustained; yet we have seen that the same subjects of bitter controversy both sections of the Republic. It required many months of discussion and deliberation to secure the concurrence of a majority of Congress in their favor. It would be strange if they had been received with immediate approbation by people at States, prejudiced and heated by the existing controversies of their representatives. I believe these measures to have been required by the circumstances and condition of the country.

I believe they were necessary to allay asperities and animosities that were twofold alienated, and to bring the country from another, and destroying those fraternal sentiments which are the strongest supports of the Constitution. They were adopted in a spirit of conciliation and for the purpose of conciliation. I believe that a great majority of our fellow citizens sympathize in that spirit, and that purpose, and in the main approve, and are prepared, in all respects, to sustain these enactments. I cannot doubt that the American people, bound together by kindred blood and common traditions; still cherish a paramount regard for the Union of their fathers; and that they are ready to rebuke any attempt to violate its integrity, to disturb the compromises on which it is based, or to resist the laws which have been enacted under its authority.

The series of measures to which I have alluded are recorded by me as a settlement in principle and substance—a final settlement of the dangerous and exciting subjects which

they embraced. Most of these subjects, indeed are beyond your reach, as the legislation which disposed of them was in its character final and irrevocable. It may be presumed from the opposition they all encountered that none of those measures was free from imperfections, but in their mutual dependence and connexion they formed a system of compromise, the most conciliatory, and best for the entire country, that could be obtained from conflicting sectional interests and opinions.

For this reason I recommend your adherence to the adjustment established by those measures, until time and experience shall demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse.

By that adjustment we have been rescued from the wide and boundless agitation that surrounded us, and a firm, distinct and legal ground to rest upon. And the occasion, I trust, will justify me in exhorting my countrymen to rally upon and maintain that ground as the best, if not the only means, of restoring peace and quiet to the country, and maintaining inviolate the integrity of the Union.

And now, fellow-citizens, I cannot bring this communication to a close without invoking you to join me in humble and devout thanks to the GREAT RULER of nations, for the multiplied blessings which he has graciously bestowed upon us. His hand, so often visible in our preservation, has stayed the pestilence saved us from foreign wars and domestic disturbances, and scattered plenty throughout the land.

Our liberties, religious and civil, have been maintained; the fountains of knowledge have all been kept open, and means of happiness widely spread and generally enjoyed, greater than have fallen to the lot of any other nation. And, while deeply penetrated with gratitude for the past, let us hope that His all-wise Providence will guide our counsels, as that they shall result in giving satisfaction to our constituents securing the peace of the country, and adding new strength to the united Government under which we live.

MILLARD FILLMORE.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1850.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives:

Another political year of our State is added to the past, and in pursuance of the Constitution, the people, by their Representatives, have assembled to examine their affairs and consult for the common good. The fact that, from year to year, the people are thus assembled to look after their own interests, and that administrations are peacefully changed by the self-renewing and propelling power of the Constitution alone, is a beautiful and striking illustration of the superior excellence of our free institutions. We may with great propriety first direct our attention to the circumstances which demonstrate the goodness of Divine Providence, on whose path we are dependent for all we enjoy, and render to him that large measure of gratitude which we owe for the blessings of the past year.

In a few places, that, as yet, mysterious destroyer of man—the cholera—has prevailed with its usually distressing incidents; but, with this exception, general health has prevailed throughout our borders. Much more than usually abundant harvests, of all kinds, have rewarded the labor of the husbandman; commerce, the mechanic arts, and all the various branches of industrial pursuits have steadily increased. Peace and order have prevailed. The administration of justice has been duly regarded. The protection and subordination of law is still felt and acknowledged by the people. Intellectual and moral instruction, under our present judicious regulations, have been extended generally to all classes; and the progress of our State in improvement, in wealth, in knowledge, and in all the elements which tend to advance the general welfare, has been steadily onward.

To the Great Author of our being, in whose hand is the destiny of nations, and whose "is the earth and the fullness thereof," we are under renewed obligations for all these increasing blessings.

Detailed reports from the several Departments will, in due time, be laid before you, from which you will derive a full view of the operations of the Government.

Full statements of the receipts and expenditures, and of the financial operations of the past year, will be presented in the reports of the Auditor, Treasurer, and Fund Commissioner.

The finances of the State are in a sound and prosperous condition. The interest upon the State debt has been punctually paid from the current resources appropriated for that purpose, and a large surplus remains, which is applicable to the reduction of the principal.

The following is a summary statement of the receipts and expenditures of the fiscal year, ending on the 15th November, 1850:

RECEIPTS.	
General Revenue received during the year 1850	\$275,001.02
Canal Tax, including \$125,000	98,433.29
Canal Sinks and water rents	728,085.73
Turkey and Canal dividends	29,838.20
Canal Lands sold	42,691.43
Surplus revenue repaid	177,213.55
School and Ministerial lands sold	68,884.87
School Fund transferred from taxes collected	50,000.00
Interest on surplus revenue fund	58,741.88
Tax on Banks and Insurance Companies	50,428.05
Public Works Western Reserve & Maumee Road	12,043.93
National Road Tolls	37,060.11
Miscellaneous Items	11,225.13

Total amount of receipts during the year, \$2,536,558.40
Balance in the Treasury on the 12th November, 1849, 553,435.10
\$3,090,993.50

EXPENDITURES.

Paid General Assembly, Judicial and State Officers, State Institutions, claims, and incidental items	\$391,186.48
Paid for repairs of public works	320,595.00
Repaired National Road, &c.	47,242.00
Interest on Domestic Bonds	28,604.60
Interest on Foreign Debt	1,022,358.95
Common School Fund Distributed	200,000.00
Interest on special School and Trust Fund	97,272.81
One per cent on Surplus Revenue	8,530.36
Three per cent Fund paid	13,246.57
On account of next January Interest	148,332.28
Fund Commissioners on account of State Debt	657,886.34
Claims transferred to the Attorney General for collection	13,382.02
Domestic Bonds redeemed by the Treasurer	5,400.00
Miscellaneous items paid	1,790.35

Total amount drawn from the Treasury, \$2,960,927.58

Balance remaining in the Treasury on the 15th November, 1850, 132,006.12
\$3,092,993.80

The total amount of the State debt which would have become due on the 31st day of December, 1850, payable in the city of New York, was \$4,255,950.78. As no means had been provided for the payment of this debt, it was deemed desirable by the General Assembly to extend the time of payment by issuing new stocks for the redemption of the certificates becoming due. Accordingly, under the authority of the act to authorize the Canal Fund Commissioners to exchange certain certificates of the funded debt of the State, passed on the 21st March, 1849, and the act amendatory thereto, passed on 19th March, 1850, the Fund Commissioners have issued \$1,025,000.00 of five per cent stock, payable in the city of New York, at the pleasure of the State after the 31st day of December, 1855; \$1,516,468.43 of six per cent stock, payable after the 31st December, 1870, and \$1,600,000.00 of six per cent stock, payable after the 31st December, 1875. The premiums received upon the new stock amounted to more than three hundred thousand dollars, after the payment of all charges and expenses. In addition to this premium, six hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars of the six per cent stock has been reduced to a five per cent stock; thus saving in interest nearly an additional hundred thousand dollars. The foreign debt of the State on the 1st day of January, 1850, was \$1,680,982.50. This debt on the 1st day of January, 1851, will be \$1,650,773.60; being a reduction during the year of \$314,208.91.

There is now in the hands of the Fund Commissioners, and in the Treasury subject to their control, surplus revenue, sinking fund, land funds and other means exceeding seven hundred thousand dollars, which is applicable to the payment of the balance of seven per cent stock. It is not therefore deemed necessary to make any further provision for the payment of the stock becoming due in 1851. The means already in the hands of the Fund Commissioners, with the revenues and resources of the current year, will enable the Commissioners promptly to pay the balance of the one million five hundred thousand dollars seven per cent stock, due on the 31st December, 1851.

On the first of July, 1845, the amount of the State debt, as stated by the Fund Commissioners in their report of January, 1849, was \$2,018,515.68.

The total amount of the debt of the State on the first of January, 1851 will be as follows:

Foreign debt	\$1,650,773.67
Domestic bonds	493,824.00
School and trust funds	1,683,906.92
	\$3,828,504.59

Amount of principal paid since 1st July, 1845, 1,273,921.36

Add to this the funds now in the hands of the Commissioners, and in the treasury, set apart for the payment of the foreign and domestic debt as it becomes due 750,000.00

Total amount paid and in hand, appropriated to the payment of the State debt within the past five years, \$2,023,921.36

Thus it will be seen, by the operation of our present financial system and the increasing wealth of the State, our public debt will be steadily diminished, and in a few years be extinguished.

History and experience will attest the fact, that where science, general knowledge, and moral cultivation, are most universally diffused among the people, there liberty is the most cherished, the rights of persons and property are the most safe, virtue, industry, and whatever else can adorn society and render mankind prosperous and happy, are held the most sacred. To extend and secure to coming generations the benefits of liberty and well-regulated free institutions, it is necessary for the statesman to look with earnest care to the means of instruction for the youth of the country; for by them he may shape the destinies of the State and the nation, for good or for evil, through succeeding ages.

An efficient system of Common Schools, thoroughly executed is the only means of attaining this desirable object. Under our present law on this subject, much has been done; but the law is imperfect. The law which now professes to regulate this system has been in force for many years. It has undergone many alterations, is printed in many different volumes of the statutes, and is thus difficult to be found, and still more difficult to be understood by the great majority of persons whose duty it professes to point out.

That portion which relates to forming and altering districts from two or more townships, and the portion providing for fixing sites and levying taxes for building and repairing school houses, and the supporting of schools beyond the means supplied by the various school funds, is obscure and of uncertain import, the cause of much serious complaint and trouble, and begets much dislike to the whole system.

I would recommend to your consideration the propriety of a thorough revision of all the statutes on the subject, so as to make them plain to all, and effectual to the accomplishment of the objects desired.

On the 28th day of September, 1850, Congress passed a law granting to each State, for special purposes, the lands situated on the lands within its borders, still belonging to the General Government, which will be made the subject of a special message.

The difficulties in relation to the Western Reserve School lands, have been during the season settled, and engrossed lists obtained from the Department of the whole number of acres claimed. These lands have been brought into market in pursuance of the law, and have met with a rapid sale, making an addition to the school fund, and affording the pleasing prospect of a considerable increase to the population, improvement and wealth of the several counties in which the lands are situated.

The several Benevolent Institutions have been conducted through the season, it is believed, in a manner generally satisfactory to all concerned, and with such success as does great credit to the State, and confirms the wisdom and well directed benevolence of the Legislature in their establishment.

It has for several years been manifest that the Lunatic Asylum, even at its present size, was insufficient to supply the wants of the people of the State. The directors and Superintendent of the Asylum have, in three successive annual reports, called the attention of the Legislature to this subject, and recommended that the incipient steps be taken for the erection of one or more like institutions in different parts of the State.

The following quotation from their last report will show the opinion of those to whom the oversight of the Institution has been entrusted by the General Assembly.

"The Directors of the Asylum have more

than once heretofore adverted to the coming necessity of making further provision for the insane of the State by the erection of two additional Asylums,—one in the Northern, and the other in the Southern part of the State."

By a report of the Superintendent, made January 18, 1849, in answer to a call of the Senate for information on that subject, it appears that the number of applicants for admission then pending, which had been postponed for want of room, was one hundred and forty-five. This number must be far too small to comprehend all there are in the State who need the aid which it was intended by the Institution to bestow. This cannot be remedied without turning at large all the incurables, and probably not even then: as the number of this class is much less than the number of insane in the State who are out—

Then, but of those incurables can be discharged with any safety to themselves or the public. But why turn any away? They can be supported there cheaper and more comfortably for themselves and their friends than they can be anywhere else. The average number in the Institution during the year ending November 15, 1849, was three hundred and twenty-two, while in the previous year one hundred and forty-five applicants for admission had been postponed for want of room in the Institution. How long shall a citizen of Ohio who applies to the State Benevolent Institution for the admission of a husband or wife, a father or mother, a son or a daughter, be turned away with the heart crushing answer—"There is no room?"

In the year 1848, the Legislature of Massachusetts appointed a committee "to consider the whole subject connected with insanity in the Commonwealth." That committee after a careful examination of the whole matter, reported the whole number of the insane in that State to be fifteen hundred and twelve—that in the five Institutions for this purpose in the State there is satisfactory provision made for eight hundred and fifty-three patients—that sixty patients are provided for at private asylums—that no suitable provision can be made for the insane in the county jails—and that six hundred of the fifteen hundred and twelve insane persons in that State are unprovided for in any asylum dedicated to that purpose. That committee having thus ascertained the destitution of the afflicted, with a promptitude honorable to themselves and worthy of their State, recommended the erection of such buildings as would provide for the wants of the people. If the same ratio exists here as in Massachusetts, there must be over four thousand in the State, and more than three thousand six hundred for whom there is no provision. But whether the same ratio prevails here or not, it is manifest that there are many persons who cannot receive the benefits of our present Asylum, spacious and well conducted as it is.

There is one other feature of this matter, which, according to the present law, seems to require some attention. The law requires, that before a person having a family can be admitted as a State patient, that it shall be shown that his property, after deducting debts, is worth one thousand dollars. It may with great propriety be asked, why compel any one to pay for going into his own house? Has not the whole property of the State been taxed to build the house, and do not all pay in proportion to their property for its support? The case, and one which may occur to a thousand families under the present law; the head of a family is admitted to the institution, and the family left to support themselves, and raise the money to pay the expenses of their afflicted head. In two years the whole of the little property will be expended; the lunatic may be discharged as incurable, and returned upon the hands of the family, palsied for the want of the little means which had been exhausted in this effort to restore him to health. Or he may be discharged as recovered, to sink again under the accumulated pressure of debt, and a family in want. In two of the annual reports of the directors, this subject has been pressed upon the Legislature asking that this distinction may be removed. It has long been my opinion that both justice and policy require that the law be so amended as to admit all as State patients without regard to property. I therefore recommend it to the consideration of the General Assembly. And I also recommend to the Legislature to enter vigorously upon such measures as will the most speedily secure the erection of the necessary buildings for the wants of the State. One other reason for at least this should not be omitted. There will be necessity always for a certain number of incurables, who must be cared for somewhere. These, by the present law, whenever there is a lack of room, if safe or harmless, must be discharged to make room for recent cases. But this is only committing the lesser inhumanity of throwing out upon the world one believed to be incurable to prevent the rejection of one who only may be cured. And who can say when his whose mind is dethroned is safe or harmless? Who knows at what moment some frenzy may take possession of the man, and he, by a fatal blow, destroy the nearest friend, or whoever else is near him? Safety, economy, and humanity, therefore, all require that this whole class of the afflicted should be sustained and kept by the State in asylums provided for that purpose.

The operations of the Penitentiary have been unusually successful, considering the fatality by cholera last year, and the sickness prevailing a portion of the present. For more than a year from the time the cholera ceased in 1849, not a death occurred in the institution from any cause. In June, however, about the time the cholera commenced in the city and vicinity, diarrhea began to prevail in the prison. This was followed by the prevalence of dysentery of an aggravated nature, closely resembling cholera, and sixteen deaths occurred from the latter disease, and five from other causes, within a very short period of time. The sickness was doubtless much aggravated by the unusual panic among the prisoners, occasioned by the memory of the frightful scenes of last year.

In consequence of the fatality by cholera and other causes, last season, the present year has been unusually successful, being 133 less than the average number for ten years preceding—which, added to the generally debilitated state of the convicts from the effects of the cholera epidemic, led to the reasonable expectation that the avails of labor in the institution this year would be much diminished.

The number on the 30th November, 1849, being the close of the fiscal year for the prison, was 336
Received during the present year 193

Total 529
Reduced by death 21
Pardoned by the Governor 32
Pardoned by the President 2
Discharged by expiration of sentence 42
Wrote of error 3
Escaped 3

Remained in the institution Nov. 15, 1850 424
Upon the subject of the prison and the administration of the criminal law, I feel impelled

ed from a sense of duty to remark, that there is almost a constant throng of applications for pardons. These applications are not made and signed by friends merely, but frequently by judges of the court, jurors, sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, and other county officers.—These petitions almost universally set up as a reason for the executive interference, that it is the first offence; that the offender is young, and has been the dupe of older and more artful adepts in crime; that reform the object of punishment, has been effected; that the ends of public justice have been subserved—the supremacy of the law vindicated—and therefore, the prisoner ought to be discharged. All this leads to the reflection whether the law ought not to be so amended as to reduce the minimum length of time for punishment, giving the courts greater latitude according to the circumstances of mitigation or aggravation which shall surround each case. Again, as the object of punishment is two-fold—the protection of society and the reformation of the criminal—the question arises whether it would not be better, accomplished by the graduation of the length of punishment by the number of convictions. Would not the offender, knowing that the second offence would be more severely and more certainly punished, be more likely to be deterred from the commission of it? The whole matter is submitted to the wisdom of the general Assembly.

The great object of punishment, which is the protection of community from the depredations of the vile, may be better accomplished by preventing the commission of evil than by enacting laws for punishing the offender after the crime is committed. The State reform school of Massachusetts, established for that purpose, has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its benevolent projectors. The buildings can accommodate three hundred, and are now full of bright youth who, perhaps, from penury and want had violated the law—who perhaps are driven from their homes, from their regular occupation of the town, and are without protection or instruction, compelled to beg, or steal, or starve, and who perhaps have never heard the voice of pity or friendship. Here they are cared for and instructed by those whose hearts are warmed with the hope and prospect of the good before them; they become contented and happy, ambitious, and in most instances make fair promise of respectable citizens. From the condition of this State, the time is not distant when necessity and policy, and an adherence to that enlightened course of benevolence which has heretofore characterized our legislation, will require for us a like institution. It is the pathway for nearly all such public improvements as are intended for the carrying business of the country, and lying between the lake and river will always have easy access to the markets for agricultural productions at all points of the country.

Having the climate of nearly five degrees of latitude from north to south, and a soil for fertility equal to that of any other country, it can and does grow almost all the productions of the temperate zone. The productions and sales from either of the great branches of the agriculture, grain or stock, in one year, would be twice as much as the State debt.—The culture of the earth is that upon which all other branches depend, and must consequently be the foundation of all wealth. Whatever, therefore, adds to the stock of knowledge on this subject, promotes the general welfare of the State, and should meet suitable encouragement from the General Assembly. A State Agricultural Fair, the first ever had in this State, was held at Cincinnati, in October last. The great variety and improved quality of agricultural implements, as well as the great variety of the productions of the soil, the large number of the finest and best improved stock of various kinds, the Horticultural and Pomological Exhibitions, in fine, the whole exhibition on the Fair ground, was such as spoke high praise to the industry and intelligence of the farming population of our State, and such also as to compare favorably with any exhibition of the kind in any other State.

It is believed that these exhibitions are of much benefit as a means of extending knowledge, exciting emulation, and promoting the general good. Whatever aid, therefore, (if any more) is necessary to sustain them creditably, should be cheerfully extended.

The whole matter is submitted to the consideration of the Legislature.

I cannot leave this subject without noticing the Mechanic's Institute, and the Horticultural Society, of Cincinnati, both of which held a Fair at the same time with the State, and by the great variety and perfection of the articles exhibited by each, in its line, did honor to their members and their city, and credit to the State.

The work upon the new State House has been pressed forward with a zeal commendable to all having that matter in charge. The building was now so far progressed as to show that it was not only to be a substantial benefit, but also an ornament to the State. The inconvenience for the want of room about the State buildings, the necessity of renting offices in the city, and the increased exposure to danger of the State property by fire, annually add more pressing reasons for urging forward the completion of this work as fast as it can be done with safety to the building itself.

The convention for revising the constitution will probably complete its labors so as to submit the result to the approval of the people before another annual election. If the new constitution shall be excepted by the people, it is presumed that many alterations will be wanted in our general laws, in order to accommodate their action to the provisions of that instrument. It would therefore seem to be the dictate of wisdom that not many changes should be made in those laws regulating the civil policy of the State.

At the time of your last adjournment, the nation had at its head a man chosen by the people for the uniform ability, fidelity and patriotism with which he had discharged every trust committed to his care. By his liberality and fairness; by his firm and determined administration of the government; by his patriotic devotion to the Union, and by the wisdom which directed the whole administration of government affairs, he had drawn to himself the hearts and confidence of the people. But Zachary Taylor, the Hero and Patriot is no more! Providence, doubtless for wise reasons, has seen fit to call him hence in the midst of his career of usefulness, and the nation in sorrow mourns his loss. But there is hope, that from the long known and well established principles of his successor, the same general measures may be carried out.

For some time past, much excitement and agitation have prevailed in different parts of our country, on a subject of absorbing interest, which has seemed to awaken in the minds of some alarm for the safety of our Union.—In the Southern section, there have been passed resolutions by State Legislatures, threatening secession in case of certain anticipated action of Congress, and there has been the assembling and re-assembling of a convention, imposing in its pretensions, which met and acted with an open and avowed purpose of disunion. On the other hand, in the north, there have been and are individuals and assemblies